

Board of Public Works Commission
Meeting Minutes

Date: June 26, 2023

Time: 5:30pm

Location: 63 North Canal St. in the DPW Conference Room in the Pellissier Building.

Meeting attendees:

1. Mary Monahan, Chair
2. Joe Kietner, Member
3. Libby Hernandez, Member
4. Kris Baker, City Engineer
5. Michael Bissonette, Assistant City Solicitor

****1. Board of Public Works****

****Call to Order:**** The meeting was called to order at 5:31 PM.

****Public Comment:**** No public comments were made.

1. ****Consent Agenda:**** The consent agenda was presented.
2. ****Consideration of Minutes:**** The minutes of the past meeting were received, and the board will review and approve them in the next meeting.
3. ****DPW Director Report:**** The DPW Director is returning from vacation tomorrow.
4. ****City Engineer Report:****
 - a. Roberts Field turf looks great.
 - b. Cape seal and microsurfacing in Western Holyoke have been completed, but there have been some complaints from residents about the appearance.
 - c. A request for a 100k+ appropriation from the City Council was not accepted. More information will be provided, and the consequences will be outlined if it is not approved. A letter explaining the urgency of the matter will be written.
 - d. DPW received 85k in grant funding mitigation funds from MGM.
 - e. Received designs and pricing for Wistariahurst Wall.
 - f. ARPA sewer lining project is moving forward. GIS data is being recorded for future use.
 - g. ARPA awards for various projects have been received, including 2 million for the central fueling station replacement, 114k for Springdale Sewer Park replacement, 4 million for buildings, and design funds for the City Hall parking deck.
 - h. Discussion about funding for networking and conference opportunities for staff. Mayor's approval is needed, and if not, alternative funding options will be explored.

5. **Commissioner's Liaison Reports:**
 - a. Libby provided updates on researching locations for BPW meetings and brought up issues with street sweeping enforcement. Mary suggested inviting the Mayor, HPD, and Veolia to a meeting to discuss the street sweeping issues.
 - i. **Motion to accept the consent agenda:** A motion was made and approved to accept the consent agenda, including inviting the Mayor, HPD, and Veolia to a meeting. All in favor.
 - b. Discussion of Deer Island Treatment Plant Tour:
 - i. Tour dates on July 14th and 24th at 9:30 AM or 10:00 AM. Discussion on transportation logistics to get across the harbor.
6. Abatements (second meeting of the month):
 - a. No abatements to review.
7. **Enterprise Fund and Financial Updates:**
 - a. The need for hiring three positions (Grant Writer, Mechanic, and Full-time Clerk) was discussed, with the decision to be made in tonight's finance meeting.
 - b. SRF funding for CSO was not approved by the Finance Committee and is being sent back to the Auditor. The Engineer will write a letter to the City Council outlining the consequences of failure to approve the funding.
 - c. The City Hall Parking Deck design funding was discussed, along with the need for a new funding source to cover the sewer rate deficit.
 - d. The City's decision to use the sewer stabilization fund to cover a deficit without consultation with BPW was raised as a concern.
 - e. The Board discussed the need to request funds for a comprehensive analysis and legal support for the upcoming sewer rate decision.
8. **Stormwater Commission**
 - a. **Stormwater Management Permit Application:** South Street Plaza requested a continuance until the 1st meeting in September.

Next Meeting: Tentatively scheduled for July 17th at 5:30 PM, but will be canceled if there are no items to act on.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 PM.